

**Wheels:** Bob writes, “My daughter owns a 1993 Cadillac Seville/4.6 liter. The car has been acting up – missing and running rough. I’ve changed plugs and wires (due to mileage). The computer led us to low voltage, so we replaced the alternator and saw slight improvement. I took the car to a reputable garage and they determined that the computer was bad. None of the codes I found showed this but I don’t have their diagnostic equipment, so we had them replace the computer. In the process of replacing the computer, we were told that the PROM needed to be replaced at this time due to updates/upgrades. (I’ve changed computers myself and all we did was transfer a chip from the bad computer to the good computer.) I would think an update would be something like a recall. We were not told that the PROM was bad, just not up to date. What do you think?”

**Halderman:** A PROM update is not considered to be a recall. A recall is a technical term used to describe a legal requirement that forces the vehicle manufacturer to recall the vehicle to repair a health or safety-related problem. A PROM update may just include a change in the operation of the engine during some conditions, such as a rough idle when warm or similar condition. In fact, many updates (now done electronically) do not pertain to many vehicles or are designed to correct a problem that would not affect your vehicle. If the PROM update corrected your driveability concern, then it is wise to have it updated. However, if the update changes do not pertain to your problems, then the replacement PROM will not be needed.

